Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 28 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 29 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 27 Mar 2024 at 13:43

Confidence: High for unsettled Thursday, showers for Friday, mostly settled for bulk of weekend. Confidence medium for detail of worst of conditions for Thursday and low from late Sunday.

Headline for Thursday 28 Mar 2024: Cloudy with showers or longer periods of rain and summit snow. Strong to gale summit winds easing a little from midday. Freezing level lifted a little by afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 28 Mar 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Light snow	Light snow	Sleet	Sleet showers	Sleet showers	Sleet	Sleet
Precipitation probability							
10%	30%	50%	80%	60%	60%	70%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 28 Mar 2024

Weather: Cloud increasing from the south overnight to bring some patchy snow, below 400-500m rain, by dawn. Rather cloudy through the day with showers or longer periods of snow and rain, which turn heavy at times bringing the risk of hail and thunder, with snow level lifting 700-800m from late morning. Best chance of limited brighter spells developing for a time early afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% becoming 50% for a time around early afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases quite frequently down to 600m.

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Forecast for Thursday 28 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	26/33 SE	21/27 SE	37/45 E	40/50 E	32/42 SE	26/35 SE	26/34 E	16/21 E	14/19 SW
600	24/33 SE	22/30 SE	20/30 E	28/39 E	27/38 SE	22/31 SE	20/28 E	11/16 E	11/16 SW
300	10/26 SE	8/24 SE	5/24 E	12/34 E	13/32 SE	11/26 SE	10/24 E	5/14 E	7/15 SW
Valley	8/21 SE	9/22 E	10/27 NE	14/33 E	12/27 SE	11/23 SE	9/21 E	8/14 NE	6/11 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-10	-0/-7	-2/-10	-0/-9	1/-7	1/-6	1/-6	0/-6	-0/-5
600	0/-7	1/-6	0/-6	2/-5	3/-3	4/-2	3/-3	2/-2	2/-2
300	2/-2	2/-1	2/-0	4/1	6/2	7/4	5/2	4/2	4/1
Valley	4/1	4/1	5/2	7/3	8/5	9/7	7/5	7/4	6/4
Freezing Level*	500m	500m	600m	900m	1000m	900m	1000m	1000m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill restricted above mid-level routes.

Forecast for Friday 29 Mar 2024

Weather: Cloudy around dawn with some patchy light rain and summit snow. Clearing to brighter spells and showers from mid-morning with outbreaks building into the afternoon, bringing a risk of hail and thunder. Snow level around 900m.

Maximum wind: South 20-25mph with gusts reaching 40mph across most exposed ridges and summits

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% around dawn, then from mid-morning 60% for any given time but very low for extended clear periods.

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor snow and within cloud with bases occasionally down to 600m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 Celsius increasing 13 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: Above summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 27 March 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:40 Full report: A fresh covering of snow has settled above 700m. Its average depth at 900m is only approx 2cm with drifts up to 15cm and nothing at all on windswept areas. The greatest accumulations are in sheltered spots and hollows and especially on steep north facing aspects. The fresh snow is soft and wet and already thawing at almost all levels but especially below 800m. It was, however, raining in the valley as the assessor left the hill with, at the time of writing, further showers forecast this evening, overnight and Thursday morning which could fall as snow at altitude so walkers heading for the highest peaks on Thursday should expect and be prepared to encounter more snow than experienced and described here. In addition, temperatures are forecast to drop so, with a summit temperature around midday of only 0.5 degrees C this means a strong likelihood of walkers heading above the snowline on Thursday encountering some hard snow and ice. Conversely, no ice was present today with the main hazards being the strength and very gusty nature of the wind and the slippery nature of the wet and soft snow covered ground especially when traversing rocks or pitched paths particularly in descent. Several walkers were sensibly turning back before the summit owing to these factors. The strength of the wind at altitude combined with the temperature gradient (difference in temperature as one climbs) resulted in a marked contrast between the warmth of the valleys and the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) which was a chilly minus 9 degrees C around midday. Thus full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Visibility was poor at times in the cloud at altitude, so a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently when landmarks can't be seen is also essential. As mentioned, there is a possibility of encountering ice at altitude tomorrow, so for those heading for the highest fells on Thursday, microspikes and walking poles would be a sensible addition to your rucksack as would, being optimistic, sunglasses to lessen the glare from the snow. Anyone attempting or traversing steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as the Helvellyn Edges, are strongly recommended to carry an ice axe and crampons or at least microspikes. The fact that these tools were not required today is irrelevant owing to the distinct possibility of there being more snow and ice on Thursday compared with today. Come properly equipped and enjoy, what may well be, the last throws of winter this season!! Temperature: plus 0.5 C Maximum wind speed 39.4 mph Wind chill: minus 9.1 C, Average wind speed: 26.4 mph
Issued at: 1343 on Wed 27 Mar 2024

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